

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100120003-2

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CIA/DCI/WHIZ 741202

CIA/WHSS

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO

25X1A9a

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 2 DECEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN SITUATION REPORT

REF :

25X1A2g

THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT THREE RECENT BOMBINGS IN ADDIS ABABA IN RETALIATION FOR THE MILITARY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO INCREASE MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THEM.

ALL THE BOMBINGS WERE TARGETED AGAINST GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS. ON NOVEMBER 30 AN EXPLOSION BLEW A HOLE IN A FUEL STORAGE TANK AT THE CAPITAL'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. A POWERFUL EXPLOSION YESTERDAY EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED CITY HALL; AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED AND SEVEN INJURED. ANOTHER

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EXPLOSION AT A RECENTLY NATIONALIZED HOTEL CAUSED LIMITED DAMAGE.

REINFORCEMENTS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO REACH A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1,500 TROOPS RECENTLY BEGAN ARRIVING IN ERITREA. THEY WILL JOIN ARMY TROOPS ALREADY THERE TO IMPLEMENT THE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO HAVE A MILITARY SHOWDOWN WITH THE LIBERATION FRONT. THE INSURGENTS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO DEAL THE FIRST BLOW, AND CHOSE ADDIS ABABA RATHER THAN A CITY IN THEIR OWN PROVINCE IN ORDER TO AVOID INJURIES TO ERITREANS.

THE COUNCIL IS CONVINCED THAT THE LIBERATION FRONT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBINGS AND WILL PROBABLY DETAIN SOME ERITREANS WHO LIVE IN ADDIS ABABA. FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSIONS THE COUNCIL DIRECTED THE CAPITAL'S RESIDENTS TO CARRY IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND HAS ALREADY ARRESTED SOME WHO WERE NOT CARRYING PROPER IDENTIFICATION.

A SKIRMISH BROKE OUT YESTERDAY IN ADDIS ABABA WHEN TROOPS ATTEMPTED TO ARREST AN ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ARISTOCRAT WHO WAS ONCE A CLOSE FRIEND TO HAILE SELASSIE. HE RESISTED AND TROOPS FINALLY STORMED HIS RESIDENCE.

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MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN RENEWED INTEREST IN CON-  
CLUDING AGREEMENTS ON US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE ETHIOPIANS  
HAD HELD PORTIONS OF THE PACKAGE IN ABEYANCE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS  
WHILE GENERAL AMAN NEGOTIATED FOR A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL  
CREDITS AND GRANT AID. THE GOVERNMENT NOW SHOWS A STRONG DESIRE  
TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CASH PURCHASE OF MILITARY  
EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ORIGINAL US OFFER. THIS INTENTION  
FIRST SURFACED ON NOVEMBER 21--TWO DAYS BEFORE THE EXECUTION OF  
AMAN--AND WAS CONFIRMED IN A MEETING ON NOVEMBER 29 BETWEEN THE  
CHIEF OF THE US MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP AND THE VICE MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE.

THIS DECISION INDICATES THE COUNCIL DOES NOT INTEND TO ALTER  
IMMEDIATELY ETHIOPIA'S RELIANCE ON THE US AS ITS MAIN SOURCE OF  
ARMS. THE FUTURE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, PROBABLY  
HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY RESOLVED. SOME COUNCIL MEMBERS STILL  
WANT TO TURN TO THE SOVIET UNION OR CHINA FOR ASSISTANCE. SOME  
HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED DISSAPPOINTMENT OVER THE LEVEL OF US AID.  
THE COUNCIL MAY HAVE DECIDED TO BUY AS MUCH US EQUIPMENT AS

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POSSIBLE BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION ON US ASSISTANCE.

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